

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 EPG-02 AID-05
SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
OMB-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 OES-07 /096 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/RPE C K STOCKER:VF
APPROVED BY EUR/RPE:PLLAASE
EB/MA R BANK

-----027952 220136Z /63

P 212230Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170946

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: EC DEMARCHE ON EXTENSION OF JONES ACT TO COVER
INFLATABLE RAFTS

1. EC COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES (LENG AND SNOW) ACTING ON
INSTRUCTIONS OF THE 113 COMMITTEE PRESENTED RPE (ALBRECHT)
WITH A NOTE VERBALE THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS REGARDING
POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE JONES ACT TO INFLATABLE RAFTS.

TEXT: THE DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
STATE AND HAS THE HONOR TO DRAW ITS ATTENTION TO THE EXTEN-
SION OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920 AND OF PL 519 (46
USC 390) TO COVER THE USE OF INFLATABLE RAFTS IN THE WHITE
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WATER RIVERS.

THE DELEGATION WISHES TO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF
THE PREVIOUS DEMARCHES WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING THE
OPERATION OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT IN PARTICULAR AND THE
BARRIER TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE WHICH THIS CREATES IN EX-
CLUDING FOREIGN-BUILT VESSELS FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE

COAST-WIDE TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES. THIS NON-TARIFF BARRIER HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTIFIED UNDER THE GATT AND ANY

EXTENSION OF ITS OPERATION APPEARS PARTICULARLY INOPPORTUNE IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

THE DEFINITIONS OF "VESSEL", AS EMBODIED IN THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920 AND IN PL 519, HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO COVER INFLATABLE RAFTS. SUCH AN INTERPRETATION WILL EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDE THE USE OF FOREIGN-BUILT RAFTS IN UNITED STATES WATERS, THUS ERECTING A FURTHER NON-TARIFF BARRIER IN THE MARITIME FIELD SUCH AS ALREADY EXISTS IN RESPECT OF HOVERCRAFT.

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES HOPES THAT THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION WILL SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THE IMPLICATIONS OF THEIR LATEST ACTION IN EXTENDING THE APPLICATION OF THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1920 AND PL 519 AND WILL FIND APPROPRIATE MEANS OF ENSURING THAT FOREIGN-BUILT INFLATABLE RAFTS ARE NOT EXCLUDED FROM OPERATIONS WITHIN UNITED STATES WATERS. END TEXT.

2. LENG SAID THAT WHILE THE VOLUME OF TRADE WHICH MIGHT BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED WAS SMALL, IT WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH FIRMS WHICH WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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HURT.

3. THE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING INTO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EXTENSION OF THE ACT. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE170946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: VF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770260-0652
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770732/aaaabbea.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 04ccea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1785754
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC DEMARCHE ON EXTENSION OF JONES ACT TO COVER INFLATABLE RAFTS
TAGS: ENRG, EWWT, EEC
To: BRUSSELS EEC
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/04ccea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009